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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING AND HAND DELIVERY

Charles L.A. Terreni, Esquire Chief Clerk/Administrator Public Service Commission of South Carolina 101 Executive Center Dr., Suite 100 Columbia, SC 29210

K. Chad Burgess, Esquire Senior Counsel South Carolina Electric and Gas Company 1426 Main Street MC 130 Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Re:

Report of the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff's Examination of South Carolina Electric and Gas Company's Monitoring Report under the Natural Gas Rate Stabilization Act for the Twelve-Month Period Ending March 31, 2008

Docket No. 2006-157-G

Gentlemen:

The South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS"), in accordance with the Natural Gas Rate Stabilization Act, S.C. Code Ann §§ 58-5-400, et seq. (Supp. 2007), ("RSA" or "The Act"), conducted an examination of South Carolina Electric and Gas Company's ("SCE&G" or "the Company") Monitoring Report for the twelve-month period ended March 31, 2008. The examination was conducted for the purpose of determining the Company's compliance with Section 58-5-430 and Section 58-5-440 of the Act.

The Company reported in its March 31, 2008 Quarterly Monitoring Report a rate of return and return on common equity of 7.72% and 9.00%, respectively. The Company's calculation of additional revenue required to restore return on common equity to the 10.25% level authorized in

its most recent rate case (Order No. 2005-619 issued in Docket No. 2005-113-G on October 31, 2005) was an additional \$4,735,547.

Based upon its examination, ORS is proposing certain adjustments (see Schedule 2) to bring the Company's Monitoring Report into conformance with Section 58-5-430 and Section 58-5-440 of the Act.

The Office of Regulatory Staff calculated the Company's rate of return and return on common equity as 7.81% and 9.16%, respectively, after ORS accounting and pro forma adjustments. Therefore, in accordance with the guidelines of the Act, ORS agrees that the Company is entitled to an increase in rates sufficient to achieve a return on common equity equaling 10.25% as authorized in Order No. 2006-553. Accordingly, based on ORS' examination of the Company's filing, ORS recommends that the Company's request be reduced by \$1,013,823 resulting in an increase to revenues of \$3,721,724. After the proposed increase, the Company will have the opportunity to earn a rate of return and return on common equity of 8.40% and 10.25%, respectively.

The following is a summary of the Dockets relative to the Company's most recent rate adjustments:

| Date of Order | Docket Number | Amount Requested | Amount Granted | Approved Return on Equity |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 11-30-1989 | 89-245-G | \$11,333,163 | \$10,139,314 | 12.75% |
| 10-31-2005 | 2005-113-G | \$28,482,731 | \$22,857,839 | 10.25% |
| 09-27-2006 10-12-2007 | 2006-157-G 2006-157-G | \$18,175,727 \$6,868,824 | \$17,437,394 \$4,555,622 | 10.25% 10.25% |

The following is a description of Schedules prepared by ORS as a result of its review of the Company's filing:

Schedule 1 presents the Company's operating experience, rate base and rates of return for the year ended March 31, 2008, and the accounting and pro forma adjustments which ORS has determined are necessary to normalize the Company's operations both before and after the effect of the requested increase. Utilizing the per book rate base of \$398,499,218 and income of \$30,769,737, a rate of return was calculated on per book operations of 7.72% with a corresponding return on common equity of 9.00%. ORS accounting and pro forma adjustments increased Net Income for Return to \$30,920,963 and decreased rate base to \$395,894,498. The return on common equity computed by ORS after accounting and pro forma adjustments was 9.16%. After the adjustment for the proposed margin increase of \$3,721,724, Net Income for Return increased to \$33,242,470. The rate of return on rate base computed by ORS after the adjustment for the proposed increase is 8.40%. The return on common equity is 10.25%.

<u>Schedule 2</u> presents an explanation of the accounting and pro forma adjustments ORS considers necessary for the Company's report to conform with Section 58-5-430 and Section 58-5-440 of the Act. For comparative purposes, the adjustments of both the Company and ORS are presented.

Schedule 3 presents the calculation of the weighted average cost of capital used by the Company in calculating its return on common equity both before and after its proposed increase. The rate base, as shown on Schedule 1, is allocated between long term debt, preferred stock and common equity according to the respective ratios as computed using the Company's capital structure as of March 31, 2008. The amount of total income for return necessary to cover an embedded cost rate of 6.21% on long term debt is computed to be \$10,751,042. The amount of total income for return necessary to cover an embedded cost rate of 6.42% on preferred stock is computed to be \$574,411. The remainder of the total income for return of \$19,595,510 is income to common equity. Such remainder produced a return of 9.16% on common equity before the requested increase. The overall cost of capital after accounting and pro forma adjustments, but prior to the requested increase, is 7.81%. Such overall cost equals the rate of return on rate base shown on Schedule 1.

After the proposed increase of \$3,721,724 income available to common equity increases to \$21,917,017 and return on common equity increases to 10.25%. Overall cost of capital as detailed in Schedule 3 equals 8.40%. Such overall cost of capital equals the rate of return on Schedule 1.

Respectfully submitted by,

- and -

Shannon Bowyer Hudson, Esquire

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South Carolina Electric & Gas Company Operating Experience - Total Gas For the Test Year Ended March 31, 2008

| | | Per | ORS Accounting | | | • | | Danis | | Total After |
|--|----|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|---|----------------------------|------------|----------------------|--------|----------------------------|
| <u>Description</u> | | Regulatory Books | & Pro Forma Adjustments | | _ | As Adjusted | | Proposed Increase | • | Proposed Increase |
| Operating Revenues | \$ | 537,929,459 | \$ 3,653,837 | (A) \$ | 6 | 541,583,296 | \$ | 3,721,724 | (N) \$ | 545,305,020 |
| Operating Expenses: | | | | | | | | | | |
| O&M Expenses - Cost of Gas O&M Expenses - Other | | 402,185,419 | (4.075.000) | (D) | | 402,185,419 | | | | 402,185,419 |
| Dep. & Amort. Expenses | | 59,970,561 19,219,718 | (1,275,889) 2,756,986 | | | 58,694,672 21,976,704 | | | | 58,694,672 21,976,704 |
| Taxes Other Than Income | | 13,937,097 | 1,887,634 | | | 15,824,731 | | 18,676 | (O) | 15,843,407 |
| State Income Taxes | | 1,442,395 | 17,797 | ` ' | | 1,460,192 | | 185,152 | | 1,645,344 |
| Federal Income Taxes | = | 10,727,441 | 118,355 | ` ' | _ | 10,845,796 | | 1,231,264 | | 12,077,060 |
| Total Operating Expenses | | 507,482,631 | 3,504,883 | | _ | 510,987,514 | | 1,435,092 | | 512,422,606 |
| Total Operating Income | | 30,446,828 | 148,954 | | | 30,595,782 | | 2,286,632 | | 32,882,414 |
| Customer Growth | | 464,405 | 2,272 | (G) | | 466,677 | | 34,875 | (R) | 501,552 |
| Interest on Customer Deposits | | (141,496) | -, | | _ | (141,496) | | | | (141,496) |
| Net Income for Return | | 30,769,737 | 151,226 | | - | 30,920,963 | . <u>.</u> | 2,321,507 | | 33,242,470 |
| Rate Base: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gross Plant in Service | | 693,074,310 | (56,044) | (H) | | 693,018,266 | | | | 693,018,266 |
| Reserve for Depreciation | | (280,773,941) | (2,603,208) | | _ | (283,377,149) | | | - | (283,377,149) |
| Net Plant in Service | | 412,300,369 | (2,659,252) | | | 409,641,117 | | | | 409,641,117 |
| Construction Work in Process | | 12,665,706 | (269,636) | (J) | | 12,396,070 | | | | 12,396,070 |
| Accum. Deferred Income Taxes | | (64,301,035) | | | | (64,301,035) | | | | (64,301,035) |
| Environmental Costs | | 966,058 | 512,421 | ` ' | | 1,478,479 | | | | 1,478,479 |
| OPEB's | | (10,586,204) | (28,767) | (L) | | (10,614,971) | | | | (10,614,971) |
| Reg. Asset for Unrovrd PAP | | 1,052,031 | | | | 1,052,031 | | | | 1,052,031 |
| Injuries & Damages | | (483,771) | | | | (483,771) | | | | (483,771) |
| Materials & Supplies | | 43,434,780 | (450, 400) | (3.4) | | 43,434,780 | | | | 43,434,780 |
| Total Working Capital Prepayments | | 7,496,320 | (159,486) | (IVI) | | 7,336,834 | | | | 7,336,834 |
| Average Tax Accruals | | 9,917,023 | | | | 9,917,023 | | | | 9,917,023 |
| Customer Deposits | | (6,493,928) (7,468,131) | | | | (6,493,928) (7,468,131) | | | | (6,493,928) (7,468,131) |
| · | | | | | - | | | | | |
| Total Rate Base | : | 398,499,218 | (2,604,720) | | _ | 395,894,498 | - | _ | : | 395,894,498 |
| Rate of Return | : | 7.72% | | | = | 7.81% | | | | 8.40% |
| Return on Common Equity | : | 9.00% | | | _ | 9.16% | | | | 10.25% |

| | | Description | | Per | | Per |
|-----|----|--|------|-----------|------|-------------|
| (A) | | Operating Revenues | - | SCE&G | | ORS |
| 1 | | To annualize revenues for lateral transfers from contract rates to published tariff rates | \$ | 550,550 | \$ | 550,550 |
| 2 | | To adjust Franchis Fee - Unbilled Revenue | • | (949,413) | • | (949,413) |
| | | · | | . , | | 2,832,463 |
| 3 | | To adjust annualized approved revenue increase for 2007 RSA proceeding | | 2,832,463 | | |
| 4 | | To adjust revenues for Urquhart Laterals | = | 1,220,237 | - | 1,220,237 |
| | | Total Operating Revenues | \$ = | 3,653,837 | \$ = | 3,653,837 |
| (B) | | Operating and Maintenance Expense | | | | |
| 5 | | To annualize wages and benefits | \$ | 797,802 | \$ | 797,802 |
| 6 | | To remove 50% of employee & officer bonuses | | (893,140) | | (893,140) |
| 7 | | To adjust employee benefits: | | | | |
| | a. | Annualize pension Income | | 134,492 | | 217,801 |
| | b. | Annualize other post employment benefits | | 46,586 | | 46,586 |
| 8 | | To remove uncollectible gas cost expense | | (436,421) | | (436,421) |
| 9 | | To remove operating expenses related to employee clubs | | (60,681) | | (60,681) |
| 10 | | To adjust for Customer Awareness Campaign expenses | | 189,300 | | 189,300 |
| 11 | | To record adjustment for Pension and Health Care | | (29,431) | | (29,431) |
| 12 | | To Annualize Insurance Expense | | 41,301 | | 41,301 |
| 13 | | ORS proposes to remove non-allowable expenses for ratemaking purposes: | | | | |
| | a. | To remove Legal Fees associated with Environmental Cleanup Cost. ORS treated this amount as an Environmental Clean-up Expense to be amortized. | | - | | (829,832) |
| | b. | Other non-allowable items | - | | _ | (319,174) |
| | | Total Operating and Maintenance Expense | \$ | (210,192) | \$ _ | (1,275,889) |
| (C) | | Depreciation and Amortization Expense | | | | |
| 14 | | To remove depreciation expense related to employee clubs | \$ | (18,528) | \$ | (18,528) |
| 15 | | To recognize additional CWIP closed to plant | | 12,409 | | 12,409 |
| 16 | | To annualize depreciation | - | 2,763,105 | _ | 2,763,105 |
| | | Total Depreciation and Amortization Expense | \$ _ | 2,756,986 | \$ _ | 2,756,986 |

| | <u>Description</u> | _ | Per SCE&G | | Per ORS |
|-----|---|------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| (D) | Taxes Other Than Income | | | | |
| 17 | To adjust taxes related to lateralr Customer Revenue adjustment for tariff rates | \$ | 2,763 | \$ | 2,763 |
| 18 | To annualize payroll taxes for wages and benefits | | 56,611 | | 56,611 |
| 19 | To remove 50% of payroll taxes related to employee & officer bonuses | | (56,026) | | (56,026) |
| 20 | To annualize gross receipts tax for unbilled gas revenue | | (4,764) | | (4,764) |
| 21 | To annualize property tax expense | | 1,868,714 | | 1,868,714 |
| 22 | To adjust for taxes for the annualized approved revenue increase from 2007 RSA proceeding | | 14,213 | | 14,213 |
| 23 | To adjust taxes related to Urquhart lateral | _ | 6,123 | _ | 6,123 |
| | Total Taxes Other Than Income | \$ _ | 1,887,634 | \$_ | 1,887,634 |
| (E) | State Income Taxes: | | | | |
| 24 | To adjust state income taxes (rate of 5%) to reflect the impact on income for adjustments to operating revenues and expenses | \$ | (34,978) | \$ | 17,797 |
| | Total State Income Taxes: | \$ - \$ | (34,978) | _ | 17,797 |
| | Total Gate Income Taxes. | * = | (01,010) | * = | , |
| (F) | Federal Income Taxes | | | | |
| 25 | To adjust federal income taxes (rate of 35%) to reflect the impact on income for adjustments to operating revenues and expenses | \$_ | (232,603) | \$_ | 118,355 |
| | Total Federal Income Taxes: | \$ | (232,603) | \$ _ | 118,355 |
| (G) | Customer Growth | | | | |
| 26 | To adjust customer growth for accounting and pro forma adjustments | \$_ | - | \$_ | 2,272 |
| | Total Customer Growth | \$ | _ | \$ _ | 2,272 |
| (H) | Plant in Service | | | | |
| 27 | To remove employee clubs | \$ | (498,661) | \$ | (498,661) |
| 28 | To recognize property retirements | | (38,138) | | (38,138) |
| 29 | To increase plant in service for property additions and plant in service | | 10,500 | | 10,500 |
| 30 | To increase plant in service for additional CWIP closed to plant | - | 470,255 | _ | 470,255 |
| | Total Plant in Service | \$_ | (56,044) | \$_ | (56,044) |

| | <u>Description</u> | _ | Per SCE&G | | Per ORS |
|------------|---|-------------|--------------|---------|-------------|
| (I) | Accumulated Depreciation | | | | |
| 31 | To remove employee clubs | \$ | 134,168 | \$ | 134,168 |
| 32 | To recognize property retirements | | 38,138 | | 38,138 |
| 33 | To recognize additional CWIP closed to plant | | (12,409) | | (12,409) |
| 34 | To annualize depreciation | _ | (2,763,105) | _ | (2,763,105) |
| | Total Accumulated Depreciation | \$ = | (2,603,208) | \$ _ | (2,603,208) |
| (J) | CWIP | | | | |
| 35 | To decrease CWIP for property related to Employee Clubs | \$ | (184) | \$ | (184) |
| 36 | To decrease CWIP for property additions closed to plant in service | | (10,500) | | (10,500) |
| 37 | To decrease CWIP for additional CWIP closed to plant in service | _ | (258,952) | | (258,952) |
| | Total CWIP | \$ _ | (269,636) | \$ = | (269,636) |
| (K) | Environmental Cleanup Cost | | | | |
| 38 | To increase environmental cost for legal fees associated with litagation of MGP site. ORS treated this amount as an Environmental Clean-up Expense to be amortized. | \$ _ | - | \$ _ | 512,421 |
| | Total Regulatory Assets | \$ <u>_</u> | - | \$ _ | 512,421 |
| (L) | Deferred Debits/Credits | | | | |
| 39 | To annualize other post employment benefits | \$_ | (28,767) | \$_ | (28,767) |
| | Total Deferred Debits/Credits | \$ _ | (28,767) | \$ = | (28,767) |
| (M) | Working Capital | | | | |
| 40 | To adjust cash working capital | \$_ | (26,274) | \$_ | (159,486) |
| | Total Working Capital | \$ <u>_</u> | (26,274) | \$ _ | (159,486) |
| (N) | Operating Revenues for Proposed Increase | | | | |
| 41 | To adjust revenues for the proposed increase | \$_ | 4,735,547 | \$_ | 3,721,724 |
| | Total for Proposed Increase | \$ <u>_</u> | 4,735,547 | \$ _ | 3,721,724 |
| (O) | Taxes Other Than Income | | | | |
| 42 | To adjust gross receipts tax for the proposed increase | \$_ | 23,763 | \$_ | 18,676 |
| | Total Taxes Other Than Income | \$ _ | 23,763 | \$ _ | 18,676 |

| | <u>Description</u> | Per | Per |
|------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| (P) | State Income Taxes for Proposed Increase | SCE&G | ORS |
| 43 | To adjust state income taxes (rate of 5%) to reflect the impact on income for adjustments to operating revenues and expenses related to the proposed increase | \$ 235,589 | \$ 185,152 |
| | Total State Taxes for Proposed Increase | \$ 235,589 | \$ 185,152 |
| (Q) | Federal Income Tax for Proposed Increase | | |
| 44 | To adjust federal income taxes (rate of 35%) to reflect the impact on income for adjustments to operating revenues and expenses related to the proposed increase | \$ 1,566,674 | \$ 1,231,264 |
| | Total Federal Income Tax for Proposed Increase | \$ 1,566,674 | \$ 1,231,264 |
| (R) | Customer Growth | | |
| 4 5 | To adjust customer growth for adjustments to operating revenues and expenses related to the proposed increase | \$ 44,378 | \$ 34,875 |
| | Total Customer Growth for Proposed Increase | \$ 44,378 | \$ 34,875 |

South Carolina Electric & Gas Company Weighted Cost of Capital As of March 31, 2008

| | | | | Regulatory | Per Books | | | As Ad | justed | | | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------|---|-------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|-------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Description | Capital Structure | Ratio | Rate Base | Embedded Cost/Return | Overall Cost/Return | Income For Return | Rate Base | Embedded Cost/Return | Overall Cost/Return | Income For Return | Rate Base | Embedded Cost/Return | Overall Cost/Return | Income For Return |
| Long-Term Debt \$ Preferred Stock Common Equity | 2,211,488,400 114,158,800 2,731,385,093 | 43.73% \$ 2.26% 54.01% | 174,263,708 9,006,082 215,229,428 | 6.21% 6.42% 9.00% | 2.72% \$ 0.15% 4.85% | 10,821,776 \$ 578,190 19,369,771 | 173,124,664 8,947,216 213,822,618 | 6.21% 6.42% 9.16% | 2.72% \$ 0.15% 4.94% | 10,751,042 \$ 574,411 19,595,510 | 173,124,664 8,947,216 213,822,618 | 6.21% 6.42% 10.25% | 2.72% \$ 0.15% 5.53% | 10,751,042 574,411 21,917,017 |
| Totals \$ | 5,057,032,293 | 100.00% \$ | 398,499,218 | : : | 7.72% \$ | 30,769,737 \$ | 395,894,498 | <u> </u> | 7.81% | 30,920,963 \$ | 395,894,498 | : : | 8.40% \$ | 33,242,470 |